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INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 4008
RUEHNK/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT 1167
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 6105
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA 3486
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
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TAGS: SP PREL PTER EFIN PINR KTFN

SUBJECT: SPANISH AUTHORITIES DETAIN INDIVIDUALS LINKED TO AQI TERRORISM FINANCE

Classified By: DCM Hugo Llorens for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Spain's Guardia Civil detained four Algerian-born individuals (three on June 30 and another on July 1) suspected of belonging to a terrorism finance cell linked to Al Qaida. Three of the men were arrested near the southern town of Huelva in the province of Andalusia while the other was arrested in the northern Basque region. The individuals allegedly obtained funds through the production and sale of various counterfeit items, and transferred the proceeds via established money transfer entities. According to the Ministry of Interior, the money transfer quantities reportedly never exceeded 2,400 euros at any one time. (Note: foreign exchange and money remittance entities in Spain are obligated by Spanish law to report transactions exceeding 3,000 euros.) All four individuals, Fouad Saada, Abdelkkim Meliani, Mansor Tiknione, and Soukime Hamoudi are legal residents of Spain.

¶2. (U) According to a Ministry of Interior press release, the Guardia Civil has been investigating this group since 2005 in close cooperation with the British government. The four suspects apparently had links to individuals convicted on charges of terrorism in Great Britain and have been active since 2001.

AGUIRRE